

part of the specification, provides clear support for the amended claims as well as an enabling disclosure.

The Examiner contends that the following limitations of the claims are not adequately described in the specification:

1. “receiving client requests for allocation of virtual machine slots”;
2. “assigning virtual machine slots to clients”; and
3. “a file repository of requested virtual machine slots”.

In addition, the Examiner contends that the specification does not describe what a “slot” is.

Turning first to the definition of a slot, that term has its ordinary meaning. A slot is a space. In terms of the invention, a virtual machine slot is a vacant space in a virtual machine. Such slots are shown in Fig. 3 at reference numerals 68a-n. As set forth in paragraph [0030],

“each VIR host array 24 includes one or more VIR hosts 60a - 60n. Host 60 a includes in Internet Protocol (IP) filter 62 that communicates with VAC 22. Virtual instruction routine 64 permits communication with IP filter 62, virtual machine server 66 and virtual machine store 70. *A plurality of virtual machine slots 68a - 68n are provided for receipt of virtual machines from virtual machine store 70 under the direction of the VIR client 64.* (Emphasis added).

In addition, the Examiner’s attention is directed to paragraph [0024] which describes the host array slots assigned to a particular session in response to commands from a client computer. Paragraph [0027] sets forth the various commands used for communication between system components. The commands are used to select slots for the host, to show where the slots are located, and to copy virtual machines to specific slots.

Regarding support for the phrase “receiving client requests for allocation of virtual

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machine slots”, the Examiner’s attention is directed to paragraph [0036]. As set forth therein, the web server provides messages selecting one or more virtual machines. “The VAC searches both the memory structures and the database to identify resources that are assigned to the session for which the web server has requested them. The VAC sends the requests to the selected VIR hosts with instruction on which virtual machine image to load into a particular free slot on the VIR host.”

Regarding the phrase “assigning virtual machine slots to clients”, see paragraph [0037]. “the VIR host processes the VAC message by copying the virtual machine image into the assigned slot. During this copying process, the IP address of the virtual machine is changed to the IP address determined by the VAC. The VIR host then starts the virtual machine. AS the virtual machine image is copied into its assigned slot and booted, the VIR host sends periodic status messages back to the VAC and the VNC proxy.” See the messages as explained in paragraph [0027].

Lastly, regarding the phrase “a file repository of requested virtual machine slots”, the Examiner’s attention is directed to paragraph [0045]. “If a new VIR host request is detected at step 114 (Fig. 6) . . . , specific memory structures are allotted at step 116, and the VIR host is registered in VIR host array 24. Once the new VIR host has been registered on the VAC it becomes a part to the VIR host array, which serves as a pool of slots for virtual machines. As clients 30, 32 and 34 access modules (e.g., log on and request access to virtual machines), VAC 22 selects a VIR host based on a load-balancing algorithm to optimize processing times.”

In summary, the detailed description, and specifically paragraphs [0024] to [0045] provide a complete description of the invention sufficient to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the

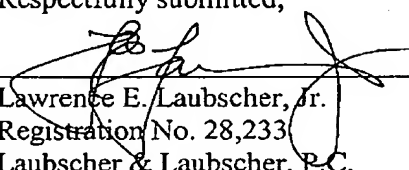
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rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is requested.

Allowance of claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-16 is courteously solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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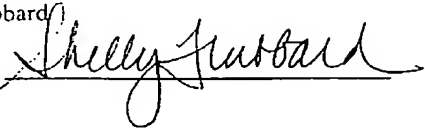
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